



DIABETES IN UNION COUNTY

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control ♦ Diabetes Control Program ♦ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina

Diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Diabetes can cause debilitating and costly complications such as blindness, renal failure, lower extremity amputations, and cardiovascular disease. Much of the health and economic burden of diabetes can be averted through known prevention measures.

In 1998, 5.7 percent of South Carolina adults, equivalent to approximately 163,000 adults, reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in South Carolina claiming 1,029 lives in 1997 and contributing to another 3,014 deaths. This report presents the burden of diabetes in Union county.

Behavioral Risk Factors

Table 1 displays the prevalence of major behavioral risk factors for diabetes and its complications in Union county and SC in 1998.

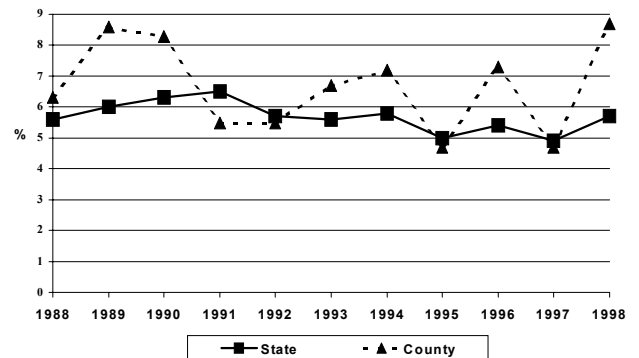
Table 1. Prevalence (%) of
Behavioral Risk Factors for Diabetes

	Union County	SC
Overweight	59.3	52.3
Current Smokers	25.9	24.7
Physical Inactivity	63.8	61.6
Consuming fruits and vegetables less than 5-A-Day	79.4	78.2
Hypertension (1997)	26.6	26.7
High Cholesterol (1997)	29.7	24.4

Prevalence

In 1998, there were approximately 2,073 adults (8.7%) aged 18 and older living in Union county who have been told by a doctor some time in their life that they have diabetes (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Prevalence of Self-Reported
Diabetes among Adults, Union, 1988-1998



Morbidity and Complications

In 1997, there were 89 hospital discharges with diabetes as the primary diagnosis among Union county residents. During the same year, there was an additional 822 hospital discharges with diabetes-related condition. African-Americans had less hospitalizations for diabetes than whites: 32 (35%) for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, and 231 (28%) for diabetes as a related condition.

In 1997, hospital charges for hospitalizations of Union county residents having diabetes as primary diagnosis were up to \$768,054 and \$9.2 million for diabetes as a related condition. The total length of hospital stay for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was

531 days.

Union county patients with diabetes who had diabetes-related complications in 1997 included:

- 89 (9.8%) with renal manifestations;
- 20 (2.2%) with lower extremity amputations related to diabetes;
- 25 (2.7%) with diabetic ketoacidosis;
- 66 (7.3%) with renal failure;
- 23 (2.5%) with dialysis.

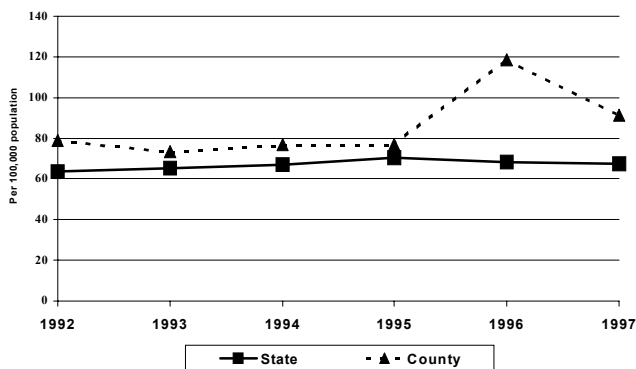
Adults with diabetes are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Out of 903 hospitalizations for patients with diabetes, 675 (74.7%) had cardiovascular diseases, and 93 (10.2%) had stroke.

In 1997, there were 43 emergency room (ER) visits for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, among which 16 (37%) were for African-American patients. In addition, there were 164 ER visits for diabetes as a related condition. Total ER charges for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was \$28,757.

Mortality

In 1997, diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death for 30 residents of Union county. This is an age-standardized mortality rate of 63.3 per 100,000 population, higher than the state average of 39.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Diabetes was listed as a contributing cause in 43 deaths in Union county; a standardized mortality rate of 91.4 per 100,000 population.

Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate of Diabetes, Union, 1992-1997



A total of 203 potential years of life were lost in 1997 because people died prematurely from diabetes. African-American men had the highest standardized mortality (146.3 per 100,000 population) among all race-sex groups.

Union County Resources

Mary Barnes, RD, CDE
DHEC Home Health Appalachia III
1000 North Pine Street
PO Box 4217
Spartanburg, SC 29305
(864) 596-3319 or (864) 595-3320

Edi McNinch, RN, CDE
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Diabetes & Endocrine Services
17 Drayton Road
Drayton, SC 29333
(864) 596-1051

Kathy Brewer
DHEC Catawba HHS
PO Box 3057
Rock Hill, SC 29732
(803) 324-7480

